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May 22, 2020

We would like to thank all of those who have served in our armed forces and their families. This weekend especially, we will be thinking of them and remembering those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for us. We hope you have a safe Memorial Day weekend, and please note that our offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day and will reopen on Tuesday, May 26.

On Monday, Governor Abbott announced Phase Two to Open Texas, which includes many businesses and occupations. You will find more specific information below regarding reopening and the associated timelines.

Some highlights to note about GA-23:

- Texans, except where necessary to provide or obtain “Covered Services”, should continue to minimize social gatherings and in person contact with those who are not in the same household.
- People over the age of 65 are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible. Individuals are encouraged to maintain at least 6 feet of separation from those 65 and older.
- Those who do leave the home, whether young or old, should implement social distancing and good hygiene.
- “Covered Services” includes those listed under CISA guidance as well as churches, congregations, and places of worship.
- “Covered Services” include the following:
 1. Retail services through pick-up, delivery by mail, or door delivery.
 2. In-store retail at 25% occupancy (25% does not include employees)
 3. Dine-in restaurants at 25% occupancy (25% does not include outdoor seating, where 6 feet of separation must be maintained, or employees)
 4. Movie theaters at 25% occupancy (25% does not include employees)
 5. Shopping malls at 25% occupancy (food court, play areas, and interactive displays must remain closed) also (25% does not include employees)
 6. Museums and libraries at occupancy of 25% (25% does not include employees)
 7. Golf course operations
 8. Local government operations
 9. Wedding venues and services required to conduct a wedding, subject to either the guidelines on churches (if held in a church) or at 25% of indoor occupancy (if held indoors at a non-church). Note, it is strongly encouraged to hold weddings outside.
 10. Wedding receptions, subject to the guidelines on restaurants (if held in a restaurant) or subject to 25% of indoor capacity (if held indoors). Again, strongly encouraged to hold outside.
 11. Cosmetology salons, hair salons, barber shops, and nail salons and should maintain at least six feet between customers and work stations
 12. Tanning Salons, again should maintain at least six feet of social distancing
 13. Swimming pools, both indoor and outdoor, but must follow occupancy levels as set forth in Open Texas

14. Services provided in an office may operate with the greater of 25% of the total office workforce or ten individuals
15. Non-CISA manufacturing services may operate at 25% occupancy
16. Gyms and exercise facilities and classes may operate at 25% occupancy, however locker rooms and showers are to remain closed. Restrooms may be open for use.

Starting Immediately except for Deaf Smith, El Paso, Moore, Potter and Randall Counties:

- Massage establishments and others licensed under Chapter 455 of the Texas Occupations Code may operate but must maintain at least six feet of social distancing.
- Personal-care and beauty services not already open may operate but must maintain at least six feet of social distancing between work stations. These include:
 1. Tattoo studios, piercing studios, hair removal services and hair loss treatment and growth services
- Child-care services other than youth camps

Starting Friday, May 29, 2020 for all Texas Counties:

- Outdoor areas of zoos may operate up to 25% capacity. All indoor areas of the zoo, except for restrooms, are to remain closed.

Starting Sunday, May 31, 2020 for all Texas Counties:

- Certain professional sporting events with no spectators physical present on the premises and as approved by DSHS
- Youth camps and summer camps, including both daytime and overnight
- Youth sports programs may begin practices but games and competitions may not begin until June 15, 2020.

Texans are asked to avoid interactive amusement venues (including amusement parks and water parks) at this time. **Texans are also still asked to not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities at this time.**

Information about Schools and Education:

- All public schools should follow guidance as set forth by TEA and found on the TEA website
- Schools may conduct graduation ceremonies as set forth by TEA and found on the TEA website

Starting June 1, 2020 Public School Districts may:

- Allow students to access the campus for in person classroom instruction such as summer school, special education, specialized assessments and tutoring services.
- Public education teachers are encouraged to continue to work remotely from home if possible

Private schools and institutions of higher education may reopen campuses and are encouraged to establish similar standards to allow students, teachers, and staff to return to campus for limited purpose.

Executive Order GA-23 is effective immediately and will continue through June 3, 2020. Guidance and protocols for businesses to open can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>

Sincerely,



Capitol Office Closure Notice

Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. Our District office in Kingwood will reopen on Tuesday, May 26.

Health Resources

DSHS: COVID-19 Case Dashboard

Texas Case Counts

COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Harris County Public Health Dashboard



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

Click the image above to be directed to the Harris County Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard

Letter to Governor Abbott From the Harris County Republican Delegation



May 21, 2020

Governor Abbott:

This afternoon, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo held a news conference to announce her intentions to release a renewed “Stay Home” order in response to COVID-19. This comes on the eve of the implementation of several actions in your most recent Executive Order permitting the further reopening of Texas. In direct opposition to your order, this represents one more violation in a string of overreaching government involvement that will only lead to more confusion for residents.

We appreciate the thoughtful and science-based approach you have developed to reopening Texas. We support your efforts to protect the most vulnerable while allowing the majority of Texans to participate in the reopening of our economy.

Per GA-23, you suspended: “Sections 418.1015(b) and 418.108 of the Texas Government Code Chapter 81, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and Safety Code and any other relevant statutes, to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions in response to the COVID-19 disaster that are inconsistent with this executive order, provided that local officials may enforce this executive order as well as local restrictions that are consistent with this executive order.”

To only further complicate this, the language of the order was not available to the public at the time of her announcement, consistent with previous orders she has issued, leaving Harris County residents uninformed. It is irresponsible and dangerous to mandate your residents to surrender to undefined restrictions. At a time when Texans are attempting to cautiously reassemble their lives, issuing a new

order will only hinder the recovery process for our region.

We are writing to ask that you take action to ensure that local officials cease this continual government overreach into the lives and livelihoods of all Texans.

Sincerely,

Representative
Huberty
Representative Jim Murphy
Representative Dwayne Bohac
Representative Briscoe Cain
Representative Sam Harless
Representative Tom Oliverson
Representative Dennis Paul
Representative Valoree Swanson

Dan Senator Brandon Creighton
Senator Joan Huffman
Senator Larry Taylor

Updates from Austin

Governor Abbott: "Be a Good Neighbor, Be a Good Texan" PSA



Governor Abbott, CVS Health Announce 44 New COVID-19 Drive-Thru Test Sites In Texas

Governor Greg Abbott announced on Thursday that CVS Health will open 44 new COVID-19 test sites at select CVS Pharmacy drive-thru locations across Texas. These new sites will utilize self-swab tests and will be available to individuals who meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria, in addition to age guidelines. Patients must [register in advance at CVS.com](https://www.cvs.com/healthcare) beginning Friday, May 22 to schedule an appointment.

"Texas continues to rapidly ramp up COVID-19 testing in our communities, and these new drive-thru testing sites provided by CVS Health will further expand access to these tests throughout the state," said Governor Abbott. "I thank CVS Health for establishing these drive-thru testing sites here in the Lone Star State. We are committed to working with our health partners in the public and private sectors to expand our testing capabilities, protect public health, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

"While the large-scale test sites we've been operating since early April have proven successful, this new approach allows us to utilize our presence in communities across the country and bring testing closer to home," said Larry J. Merlo, President and CEO, CVS Health. "Our frontline employees will continue to play a critical role in the testing process, with members of their communities directly benefitting from

their dedication and selflessness."

Patients will be required to stay in their cars and directed to the pharmacy drive-thru window where they will be provided with a test kit and given instructions. A CVS Pharmacy team member will observe the self swab process to ensure it is done properly. Tests will be sent to an independent, third-party lab for processing and the results will be available in approximately three days.

CVS Health plans to have over 80 drive-thru testing locations in Texas by the end of May. More information about CVS Health and their testing sites can be found at their [COVID-19 resource center](#).

The new testing sites near District 127 include:

- CVS Pharmacy, 15010 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079
- CVS Pharmacy, 1003 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77006
- CVS Pharmacy, 5402 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77056
- CVS Pharmacy, 2469 Bay Area, Houston, TX 77058
- CVS Pharmacy, 5603 FM1960 W, Houston, TX 77069
- CVS Pharmacy, 25110 Grogans Mill Road, Spring, TX 77380
- CVS Pharmacy, 8754 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, TX 77379

Governor Abbott Issues Executive Order Terminating Air Travel Restrictions Related To COVID-19 Pandemic



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Governor Abbott Issues Executive Order Terminating Air...

Governor Greg Abbott today issued an Executive Order (GA-24) terminating air travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor's new order immediately terminates all restrictions contained in the Governor's previous Executive...

[Read more](#)
gov.texas.gov

Governor Abbott, DPS Announce Limited Reopening Of Driver License Offices



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Governor Abbott, DPS Announce Limited Reopening Of...

Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will begin a phased opening of driver license offices starting May 26th with limited service offerings. As part of this opening plan, DPS will launch a...

[Read more](#)
gov.texas.gov

TxDOT Urges Drivers to Plan Sober Rides Ahead of Memorial Day Weekend



As COVID-19 orders are relaxed in many parts of the state and more Texans return to the roads, TxDOT's "Plan While You Can" campaign reminds drivers to make a sober ride part of their Memorial Day weekend plans.

"The long weekend should be an enjoyable start to summer, and we understand more and more people are beginning to venture out," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "But if you plan to drink alcohol, please know it is vital that you plan ahead for a sober ride. Without a doubt, planning for a sober ride home will help prevent senseless tragedies and save lives."

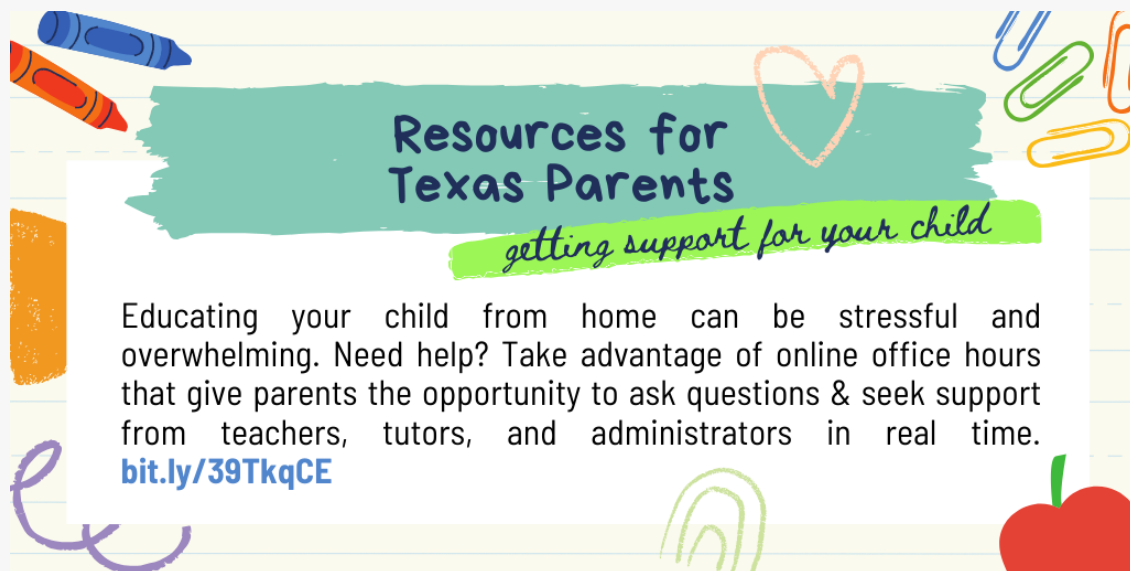
In 2019, there were 360 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes in Texas over the Memorial Day weekend*. Those crashes killed 16 people and seriously injured another 34. Last year, there were a total of 2,349 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes in the Austin District, resulting in 56 fatalities and 194 serious injuries.

Driving under the influence of alcohol not only risks death or serious injury, but it can also be costly. Drivers can face up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time and loss of their driver's license. Instead of getting behind the wheel, here are some alternatives:

- Designate a sober driver
- Contact a cab or ride-share service
- Use public transit
- Spend the night

"Plan While You Can" is a key component of [#EndTheStreakTX](#), a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, like wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit and never driving after drinking or using other drugs. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. [#EndTheStreakTX](#) asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

More Resources for At-Home Schooling



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